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# The Return of Monthly Compost Collection

It's getting colder outside, which means that the compostable material collection schedule changes to monthly. Collection will be on your normally scheduled pick-up day on the following weeks this winter:



# Festival of lights

The Pembina Valley Indian Society hosted its annual Diwali celebration at the Access Event Centre in Morden Saturday. The Hindu festival of lights brought people together for an evening of cultural performances, live music, plenty of food, and a fireworks show to cap everything off. Below: The night also included a few fun competitions, including "Most Jewelry," won by the woman at the far right.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



# **End of an Era: After 42 Years, Marathon Pizza Founder Mike Sofillas Hangs Up His Apron**

After more than four decades of tossing dough, Over the years, Mike wel-Mike Sofillas is officially hanging up his apron at the age of 92. Over the years, Mike welcomed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren into the

For 42 years, Marathon Pizza has been more than just a restaurant, it's been the heart of the Sofillas family. It's where we made endless memories, traditions were passed down and a lot of cheese was eaten!



Over the years, Mike welcomed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren into the kitchen, teaching us how to make pizza the same way he always has, with love, patience, and pride in every step. More than recipes, he passed down values that will stay with us for life.

The Sofillas family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many loyal customers and regulars who have supported Marathon Pizza over the years.

While we share mixed emotions about the end of an era, we take pride for all he's accomplished. Mike looks forward to seeing familiar faces around town during his retirement.

The Sofillas family would also like to welcome the new faces renting the space. We look forward to being on the other side of the counter.

Happy Retirement, Pappou. We will miss spending time with you in the kitchen, but look forward to you enjoying some freedom! You've more than earned it.

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# Winkler Cheerboard to kick off campaign Nov. 1-2

Holly Jolly Breakfast, Fire vs. Flyer charity hockey game on that weekend

## By Ashleigh Viveiros

November is coming up fast, and the Winkler and District Christmas Cheerboard is heading into it with a

Mayor Henry Siemens stopped by the committee's meeting last week to sign a proclamation officially declaring November as Cheerboard Days in Winkler.

The Cheerboard will kick things off with a packed-full weekend Nov. 1-2, starting with the annual Holly Jolly Breakfast that Saturday.

"It's at Central Station, 9 o'clock to 11," shared president Crystal Rempel. "And it's all by donation."

That donation will get you a plate of pancakes, sausage, and juice or coffee to feast on as you enjoy holiday music from local performers.

"We'll have a great lineup of entertainment," Rempel said. "And we'll have the firemen on hand to help us serve again and cook up the pancakes."

Winkler's firefighters will also be lending the Cheerboard a helping hand the next day, Sunday, at the annual Fire vs. Flyer Charity Classic.

The friendly game between fire crews and the Winkler Flyers junior hockey team will take place at the Meridian Exhibition Centre. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$2.

"We'll have Waypoint Coffee on hand serving coffee and we'll be selling popcorn and candy bags," Rempel said. "And there will be raffle tickets for purchase for a bunch of great prizes that local businesses have supplied."

The money raised that weekend will hopefully get the Cheerboard off to a good start on its goal of raising the approximately \$150,000 needed to put together care hampers for families in need this Christmas.

"It's a huge weekend for us," said Rempel. "It really gets the community aware of us again and of the need in our community.

"People are so generous," she added, "and we count on that generosi-

Last year's campaign distributed 418 hampers, and Rempel only expects that number to go up.



Winkler Cheer board president Crystal Rempel (centre, left) with Mayor Henry Siemens (centre, right) and the proclamation declaring Cheerboard Days in Winkler. Flanking them are (from left) Cheerboard members Darryl Harder, Martha Bergen, Sabrina Neufeld, Trish Gerbrandt, Clarissa Janzen, and Sydney Dyck.

"We always plan for that. We know things haven't gotten better in the last year with grocery prices continuing to go up," she said

Each hamper includes grocery gift

cards and vouchers to local stores as well as gifts for any children in the household—toys for younger kids

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# Morden bids farewell to Chief Andy Thiessen

By Lorne Stelmach

The community paid tribute last week to Andy Thiessen as he steps down from serving as the Morden fire chief after decades of service.

A retirement celebration Oct. 15 at the Access Event Centre had a number of speakers salute Thiessen for the dedication and commitment behind his 45 years with the fire department, including the last 30 as chief.

"It's a real honour to stand here today to celebrate a man who throughout his career has demonstrated dedication, leadership and heart," said Kelvin Toews, president of the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs, which had Thiessen serve as its president at one point.

Toews praised Thiessen for a lifetime of commitment to the community and noted how he had also had an influence on firefighting across the province.

"He's been a strong and steady voice for fire prevention through public education, believing that preventing tragedy is just as important as responding to it."

Morden city manager Nicole Reidle noted how Thiessen has always genuinely cared about the well-being of the community.

"Andy had never been just a fire chief. He's been a mentor and a leader and friend. His compassion for people and his commitment to service has defined what it means to be part of the Morden fire department family."

In addition to thanks and congratulations from deputy mayor Doug Frost and Don Cruickshank, representing Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie, the event also heard from deputy fire chief Tim Reimer, who called it an honour to speak on someone who has meant so much to the department and to him personally.

"That's more than an career. That's a lifetime of commitment," he said. "You didn't just fill a role. You defined it. You led with integrity, humility and a calm that someone made the hardest calls a little easier to face."

Reimer noted that Thiessen has mentored generations of firefighters, and jokingly referred to his habit of trying to reassure the fire crew by saying that they would be "done by noon." "It was his way of steadying the ship," he said.

"You've left a legacy that doesn't retire with you. It lives on in the values you've instilled, the culture you built and the people you led," concluded Reimer

## "IT'S HUMBLING"

"It's wonderful seeing people come out to support you," said Thiessen. "Throughout my whole employment here, people have prayed for me ... every time they hear the sirens, they send out a prayer for us.

"It's humbling. It feels great to know that you've got the support of your community and that's why we give back so freely because it's a great place to be."

Thiessen said he had mixed feelings about stepping aside and called it a tough decision to make, but he jokingly laid the blame on Brad Neduzak, who retired this fall as Morden's police chief after a similarly long career with the department. Thiessen recalled about 10 years ago when they joked about retiring at the same time.

"I started thinking about it a little bit, and it landed up being a good time for me as well," he said. "I wanted to leave when the department was in good shape and I was healthy ... the community was in a good spot, and that's where we're at."

He acknowledged that it was time for others to take the reins and move things forward, but he also touched on the idea of the department being like family to him.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The community paid tribute to retiring fire Chief Andy Thiessen (fourth from left) last week at a celebration held in his honour at the Access Event Centre.

"I want to step aside. I don't want to leave ... it is a family, and you can't get away from that," Thiessen said. "You stand beside somebody who needs you, and then they stand beside you when you need them. You can't just walk away from that kind of stuff.

"For a fire family, you do anything for it," he reiterated.

Thiessen recalled having moved to Killarney at one point, and the Co-op store was right across from the fire hall, so the thought was planted as he saw trucks leaving and the sirens going off. He asked if they had any spots available, and he started the next day.

The rest, as they say, is history.

"That was the beginning of a long enjoyable volunteer full-time position," said Thiessen, who also commented on always feeling supported by the town and then city councils at the time.

He also recalled one especially tough call which involved a house fire that took the lives of Lorne and Midge Kyle in 2020.

"Through that, we grew a lot as a department," he recalled, noting that

he did not want especially the young guys to go in to see the difficult scene.

"It's pretty tough to break us," he said, noting the need to be there when the members need some encouragement and support.

"There's been so many good times and great calls that I will remember for a long time," he added. "Knowing that I put something back into the community and the province ... I feel like I can bring something to the fire service, but they've given back way more ... that's a really cool thing."

Thiessen offered a bit of advice for his successor.

"Because we're in a relatively small community ... to respond to an incident, you're probably going to know them," he said. "You want to show them as much support as you can. They got themselves into a bad day, and you want to make that day a little bit better, and as long as you can do that with respect.

"Just be kind. Let them know they're as important as anything," he said. "And right now, they have one hundred per cent of your attention."

## > WINKLER CHEERBOARD, FROM PG. 3

and gift cards for teenagers. They'll be distributed on Dec. 10, just in time for the holidays.

If you can't make the Nov. 1-2 events, you still have plenty of other opportunities to support the Cheerboard in the weeks ahead.

The Winkler Tim Hortons will be selling its Holiday Smile Cookie for a week in mid-November, with proceeds going to the hamper program.

And for the entire last two weeks of the month, the Winkler Co-op grocery store will be accepting donations at the till for the Cheerboard.

Plans are also in the works at the Winkler Senior Centre to host one of

their congregate breakfasts in support of the campaign in early December.

And, as always, you can make a donation to the Cheerboard directly through its website: winklercheerboard.com.

Many of the families receiving hampers this year will be referred to the program through local social services, but Cheerboard reps will also be at Central Station (555 Main St.) every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. to help people without a referral fill out an application.

"We'll be there with bells on,"

Rempel said. "So they won't be able to miss us."

And if you'd like to get involved as a Cheerboard volunteer, stop by the Holly Jolly Breakfast or the charity hockey game and speak with any of the existing board members.

"We'd love to have a conversation with you," Rempel said. "We won't turn away good help."

As busy as it can be through November and December, the entire campaign is an incredibly rewarding one to be a part of, she shared.

"I enjoy being a part of the community and meeting all the people, and being the hands and feet of Jesus here in our community."

# Sean Aune hired as Morden's new police chief

By Lorne Stelmach

A veteran of the Morden Police Service is stepping up to assume the role of police chief.

Sean Aune marked the 25th anniversary of joining the police department here by officially signing the contract Monday to succeed Brad Neduzak as

"I haven't been nervous in 25 years," Aune said afterwards. "When you do this job, you see a lot of things and not much gets to you anymore, but actually it's been a lot of emotions."

From starting with the department as a rookie, Aune climbed up the ladder to become a sergeant and then inspector about four years ago. He shared that making the decision to take the next step came after some careful consideration.

"I discussed it with my family, and it really came down to I should be grateful for this opportunity that I get to do what I love in the community that I love."

Aune acknowledged it was also somewhat bittersweet as he has had a long history with Neduzak, who stepped down this fall after 40 years of service including 25 as chief.

"I talked to Brad today ... I have

some big shoes to fill. I hope that I meet his level of excellence, and what he expected, I hope I meet that," said Aune.

He noted he was thankful for the members and how hard they work and even especially with the specialty units, and he also recognized the strong support of the City of Morden and the police board.

"I'm just excited to put the effort into it now and see where we can take it," said Aune.

"I was already part of working with the police board and with their vision. The city and the police board both have the same vision as I do for the police service," he said. "I love this community. I'm enjoying this new role with whatever it brings, and just to carry on with it and meet those expectations will be the hardest part."

"Sean's resumé is top marks. The presentation he gave to us was bar none [the best], just the experience that he's had all the way through the ranks," said police board vice chairperson Colin Harbinson on the decision to promote Aune. "We feel he has both the experience, the knowledge and the drive, the desire, to continue to serve the community in this capac-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Sean Aune (centre) is the Morden Police Service's new police chief. Aune has been with the department for 25 years.

"We just think he is a super candidate for the position," added Harbinson, who also commented on his personality in terms of being personable and also so well established and known and respected in the commu-

Harbinson added they see Aune fitting very well with the vision of the police board to have a police service that is seen in a positive way in the

community and in the schools.

"We wanted more community involvement from the service so that people realize when they see a police car, it's a good thing. It means that we're secure. We're being checked on ... having the police presence is a good thing, a positive thing.

"There has to be a presence [in the community]," he said.

# Morden Cheer asking for community's support to meet growing needs

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Christmas Cheer Board is gearing up for another holiday season campaign, but it is starting out this year with the challenge of being short of funds.

Volunteers packed and delivered 384 hampers last year and are projecting to do over 400 this year, but the organization was already having a hard time keeping up with the rising costs and demand last holiday season.

"We have a long ways to go," said representative Ali Wiens. "Last year, our donations were significantly lower than in other years, and that coupled with higher expenses, we used up most of our surplus, so we're starting off this year without the little nest egg we usually start with.

"We are a bit concerned. Costs are still rising, and the need is still rising."

Applications for hampers will soon be available online at mordenchristmascheer.com with a deadline of Dec. 9. They will also be available at the Morden Civic Centre after Remembrance Day.

People who want to help out with hamper packing and delivery mid-December can also go online for more details.

There will be a number of opportunities to support Christmas Cheer in the weeks ahead, including a Morden Thunder fundraising game, a few in-theworks events hosted by Rendezvous, and the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign mid-November.

Cheer board reps will also be on hand at the annual City of Morden tree lighting celebration at the civic centre accepting donations.

You can also watch out for donation boxes around town at various businesses starting around the middle of November, and there are several businesses gearing up to host their own fundraisers to support the campaign. You can keep up to date on it all by following Morden Christmas Cheer on Instagram and Facebook.

Wiens noted they are grateful for the support of businesses like the Stardust Drive-In, which hosted a fundraiser for them this summer, and for the donations that have come in from places like Access Credit Union, United Way Pembina Valley, Morden Area Foundation, and Kroeker Farms.

The hampers include gift cards for Gardenland Coop and Giant Tiger as well as Pharmasave for things like toiletries. Families with kids or teens receive presents or gift cards for them as well.

"We do gift cards for the food ... but we do still collect non-perishable food and divide that among the hampers, and we do still collect new unwrapped toys and new books as well," said Wiens.

Wiens said they remain hopeful despite their financial challenges.

"Our community has always come through for us, so we're still hoping we can provide families with hampers that can give them enough support during the holiday season," she said.

"The board made the difficult decision that we are



**VOICE FILE PHOTO** 

going to have to reduce the value of our hampers by 25 per cent this year just to be able to pay our bills ... that is significant," Wiens noted. "It was a very tough decision ... we only can spend the money that we get, so that's what we needed to budget for this year.

We are grateful as a board that we are able to help all of the people who need the support from Christmas Cheer, but we can only do as much as the donations allow."

# Voice



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# Stanley changes plans for sewer system

Scope of project no longer to include Reinfeld, Schanzenfeld

By Lorne Stelmach

An RM of Stanley plan for a waste-water low-flow sewer system to serve a portion of the municipality (including the villages of Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld) has been scaled back in the wake of widespread opposition to the project.

On Monday, council announced it has decided to change the scope of the Stanley low-pressure sewer project to end the installation of any future wastewater pipes at the current limits of the two villages.

Property owners, working with the Reinfeld village committee, had largely rejected the plan, maintaining that of the 720 property owners affected by the RM's proposal, 509 had filed formal written objections. Committee chairperson David Hoeppner hailed council's decision this week as a victory of sorts.

"It's a great day for democracy and justice and property rights in the villages of Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld," he said. "Obviously the RM of Stanley looked at the response of the people and finally came to the conclusion that maybe it's better to listen to the people rather than try to steamroll over the people. We were very, very happy with the outcome."

Objecting residents had not only taken issue with the potential costs but also maintained they were content with what they have now, and suggested that this project was being forced on them whether they wanted

it or not.

"Our two major issues were the price tag for every property ... somewhere in the neighbourhood of about \$15,000 at least ... and the second issue was the densification of our villages," Hoeppner said. "It changes the very nature of living in a village, where you have elbow room and space between your neighbours. We chose to live in Reinfeld because we didn't want the density of Morden or Winkler."

Council said it will request the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) accept a project scope change to the originally approved project by the provincial and federal governments.

Although they suggest there was a reasonable number of ratepayers supportive of the project, council acknowledged they heard from a number through filed formal objections to the system inside the two communities, so that portion of the project has been truncated to end at the village limits.

In the aim of taking full advantage of the government grant funding, council intends to continue with the main line and lift stations up to and ending at the community limits of Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld in addition to the Morden-Stanley-Winkler corridor as Phase 1, and then seek provincial and federal approval to now include the PTH 32 corridor low-pressure sewer and PR 428 conveyance lines.

This new infrastructure will allow

[FUNDING] WILL BE GOING TOWARDS SUPPORTING MORE NEWER DEVELOPMENT, NOT THE EXISTING COMMUNITIES."

the municipality to service the Boundary Trails Health Centre expansion, implement odor control equipment, and allow the municipality to remain open for future business and land development when needed, said Reeve Ike Friesen.

"We first wanted to get answers on our federal and provincial grant money that we received whether we could refocus that money ... if we would be able to use it in a different scope ... that took some time, and we were told that we could," he said.

"We heard from the community," Friesen acknowledged. "It seemed like there were a majority who were not wanting to have wastewater in their communities, their existing communities, so that will no longer be going ahead."

In terms of the overall scope of the project, Friesen suggested it is still good progress for the RM.

"It will be going towards supporting more newer development, not the existing communities," he said. "It will just help out with the growth."

# Council on the hunt for new CAO

By Lorne Stelmach

In the midst of conflict around opposition to a proposal for a low-flow wastewater sewer system, the RM of Stanley council is now also dealing with the hiring of a new chief administrative officer.

CAO Terry Penner submitted his resignation to council in late September.

Reeve Ike Friesen said he could only say that Penner was leaving to pursue another opportunity elsewhere out of the country in the private sector.

The municipality has since worked with Way To Go Consulting to bring in Luc Lahaie as an interim CAO.

Lahaie served as the CAO for the RM of Hanover from 2012 until he was replaced in the role by the Ha-

nover council earlier this year.

"He's very familiar with municipal work ... and he was there for 13 years," said Friesen.

Council continues its hunt for a permanent new CAO.

"We do have applications open for the position, so we will be looking at hiring somebody full-time," Friesen said.

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# Hildebrand steps into director role at SCRL

By Lorne Stelmach

Changes are happening at the local libraries with the departure of its longtime leader.

With the retirement of Cathy Ching, former Morden branch administrator Gail Hildebrand is taking over as director of library services for the South Central Regional Library network.

In addition, office manager and Miami branch administrator Raina Teigrob is now going to serve as an assistant director, while Kim Goodine is stepping into the role of Morden branch administrator.

Ching's decision to retire was bittersweet, but it was something that had been on the radar.

"It was time just because I've been in this position since 2016, so 10 years I think is a good time to move on and make room for someone new and for new ideas," she suggested.

There were also other personal factors that also came into play, she noted

"Some of it was not totally my decision, but that's how it goes," she said. "I'm leaving it in good hands though ... and I've known Gail ever since she joined South Central, so I'm very happy to have her step into this position and with a strong team."

"It's been a really fun month. I got to hang out with Cathy day in and day out for training," said Hildebrand.

"We're all going to miss Cathy. She

has been a really strong example and a good leader to all of us," she said. "She's always had good advice for us, and I've really enjoyed getting to know Cathy over the last five years that I've been with South Central and getting to know her.

Ching said there are many things that stand out for her during her time with SCRL, but she particularly cited the challenges they faced a few years ago when there was a vocal minority that pressured the library to remove certain books.

"South Central has come a long way, and we definitely have made some huge impact," she said. "South Central is well known for high standards and standing our ground. People still refer to us as leading the way in intellectual freedom and the right to choose."

"We've got a reputation that we will stand up for our public and do what is right for intellectual freedom, and I do think that's a big part of what my job will be to continue that," said Hildebrand. "I don't think those problems will ever go away a hundred per cent. People will always have voices to disagree with things, which is absolutely right, but we will remember we are here for everybody."

Hildebrand sees the library network as being in a good place now to move forward.

"I have a very good staff to work



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Gail Hildebrand (left) is the South Central Regional Library's new director of library services now that Cathy Ching (right) is retiring after nearly a decade in the role.

with," she said. "I have come in to a very strong position, and I hope to just keep upholding the values that SCRL has stood for over the years."

Ching also noted something else that stands out for her is how the network has become very unified and collaborative.

"We're not separate branches. All branches are a little different, but our staff all have come together. Everyone knows each other," she said. "Our staff have started to lean on each other, and with social media, they check with each other, and everybody's kind of teamed up, so that to me has been the biggest thing, seeing South Central is strong."

"I can't do my job as director with-

out all of the people who work for us and with us," Hildebrand agreed. "It is part of that relationship that gives us our strength because we all rely on each other."

Moving forward now will continue to be a bit of a learning process for Hildebrand.

"The first year for sure is just going to be getting it all figured out because there's a lot of moving parts to this job," she said. "The first year is just going to be learning how to do what Cathy did, and getting through my first budget, my first federal grants, first provincial grants ... getting through all of those things the first time."

# Central MB Youth Choir performs across region



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The annual tour of the Central Manitoba Youth Choir took place last week with public performances over four days in communities across the region. Several schools hosted shows, as did businesses and facilities such as Waypoint Coffee, Homestead South, and the Buhler Active Living Centre (right). Morden also hosted the Central Manitoba Choral Association workshops (above) for budding choral students last Thursday, and the CMYC were on hand there as special guests.



# getinformed

# Morden couple marks 72 years of marriage

By Lorne Stelmach

A local couple are likely in contention for having one of the longest marriages certainly in Manitoba.

Gordon and Betty Sager (nee Morrow) celebrated 72 years together on Oct. 10.

They were married that day in 1953 in the Darlingford United Church. The couple farmed just outside of Morden until 2019 when they retired to live in Homestead South.

They have three children, six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Both sides of the family were farmers, and in fact there is a son and grandson who still have a hand in the industry.

Family of course has always been important to Gordon, 93, and Betty, 91, as well as obviously their commitment to each other.

"I think it's probably their teamwork and commitment to one another," suggested daughter Kathy Foley in reflecting on the longevity of her parents' partnership.

"You've got to let her have the last say usually," Gordon said jokingly when asked what makes for such a long successful marriage. "You can't go this long without having a little bit of a spat once in a while ... it's the spice of life."

"There have been a few arguments," agreed Betty. "We just stumbled along, and we got along."

Both recalled when they met and what attracted them to each other.

"She came from a farming back-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE
Betty and Gordon Sager celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary Oct. 10.

ground. Her dad was a farmer, and "We got married whe

my dad was a farmer too," said Gordon. "They lived just seven miles away from us. I never knew it until we were going together. We both lived down #3 highway.

"We went to a dance up town in Thornhill, and that's where we met," he said. "I thought she was pretty good looking ... I think I got a good farm girl."

"There were dances at Thornhill all the time, and that's where we all met ... and it was good. He didn't look bad," Betty said with a laugh. "We got married when we were pretty young, I guess," added Gordon.

"We've mostly been pretty good," he said of their health, noting Betty is now confined to a wheelchair as a result of breaking her hip.

"I don't like it," she said of the physical limitations her injury comes with, but the pair overcome them together.

The couple has now called Morden's Homestead South home for nearly seven years.

"We should have moved sooner, I guess, but most people, they leave it until they're too old ... this is an ideal

spot for us," Gordon said.

"If you move from the farm, are you going to buy a house? You're finally going to get here anyway, so what is the best?" added Betty.

Foley noted a few things that stand out for her when she thinks about her parents.

"They always kind of had this motto: work hard and do your best, but enjoy the fruits of your labour," she said.

"They've been very actively involved in their community ... I think it's really important," she added. "The amount of visitors they have, even now in their 90s, speaks to how much they were engaged in the community with people of all ages.

"I think one of the other endearing things is she often calls him her hero, and I just think that is so beautiful," said Foley. "One of the things I remember as a kid is he always brought her wildflowers. He got off his truck and went down into the ditch ... and then mom was always cooking his favourite goodies.

"It's just all those little things they've always done for one another that is just so sweet."

Gordon's final thought was a bit of advice for young couples who are just starting out together.

"You've just got to try to get along ... little arguments are going to happen ... you've got to work through it ... you've got to figure it all out between you."

# More measles exposure sites in Winkler area

By Voice staff

Health officials are warning of three more measles exposures sites in the Winkler area.

If you were at the following locations on the listed days and times, you are asked to monitor for symptoms until the stated date and reach out to your health care provider if symptoms occur.

• Zion Church, 208 Hespeler Ave. E, Schanzenfeld on Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Nov. 3

• Dairy Queen, 785 Main St., Winkler on Oct. 9 from 7-10 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Oct. 31.

• Garden Valley Collegiate (includ-

ing the volleyball game), 736 Main St., Winkler on Oct. 9 from 5:30-11 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Oct. 31.

Public health is also asking anyone who was at these locations during the specified times to check their immunization records and ensure they are up to date with measles vaccine (MMR or MMRV).

Further information on measles, exposures, and immunization is available at www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html or individuals can contact Health Links-Info Santé at 204-788-8200 in Winnipeg or 1-888-315-9257 toll-free in Manitoba.

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

# Access CU funding major kitchen upgrade at Plum Coulee School

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Plum Coulee School's kitchen is getting a long overdue upgrade thanks to support from Access Credit Union.

The K-8 school is one of 10 Manitoba schools announced as recipients of the 2025 Focused Funding Grant from the financial institution, which was focused this year on projects that enhance wellness and nutrition programs for students.

Plum Coulee School's dreams for its aging kitchen fit the bill, and they are receiving \$25,000 to make them happen.

The kitchen was built back in the 1970s, and while they've redone the retro countertops in the years since, the aging appliances are very much in need of replacement, shares principal Mary Eberling-Penner.

"Our hope was to purchase some new kitchen appliances as well as some utensils just to make it more feasible for us to provide breakfast and snacks for our students," she says.

They'll be getting a new fridge, a freezer, adding a range hood for the stove, a dishwasher—the works.

"And then the utensils—everything you can imagine, right from knives, cutting boards to some smaller appliances, like a couple of good blenders so that we could provide breakfast smoothies," says Eberling-Penner, sharing that they hope to have it all done by Christmas.

Commercial-grade goods come with a hefty price tag—the school found that out last year when it purchased a much-needed conveyor toaster and it came in at over \$1,400—but the devices not only hold up better than household-grade ones but also ensure a much more smoother breakfast-making process as staff work to feed dozens of kids every single day.

"That's how it suddenly adds up to be \$25,000, when you think in terms of commercial use," Eberling-Penner says, noting there's also some installation costs that will be incurred when it comes to the necessary plumbing and cabinetry changes to make the new appliances fit.

The grant from Access CU will cover the costs completely. Without that support, these purchases would likely be years away from happening, if at all.

"We would have probably continued with what we're doing now, which is basically pick-up-and-go fruit and toast," says Eberling-Penner. "Our hope is that now maybe we can add some additional protein-based things."

The school has 250 students, all of whom have access to the morning breakfast pro-

Breakfast is set up in the centre of the



**SUPPLIED PHOTO** 

The Plum Coulee School breakfast program gives kids access to toast and fruit every morning. Thanks to a grant, the school will be able to buy new appliances and utensils for its kitchen.

hallway in our school, and any student can go and pick something up," explains Eberling-Penner. "And then the fruit and then sometimes even if there's leftover toast—leftovers that are not needed to be refrigerated—they'll stay out until morning recess and kids can pick them up for their morning snack if they're still hungry."

The school has several local donors helping them obtain food and also partners with Maple Manor.

"There are two ladies there who work in the kitchen, so they have their food handler's [certification] and it's an approved kitchen, and they bake all our muffins for us," Eberling-Penner says. "We provide the ingredients, but they provide the manpower."

The school has had easy-to-grab food available for hungry kids for years now, but was able to expand to offer items daily to everyone last year thanks to funding from the province.

It's an essential service, Eberling-Penner stresses.

"There's a variety of reasons" a child might show up to school hungry—from financial hardship to simply a rushed morning that left them with little time to grab something to eat, she points out. "No child that feels that they've been rushed or are hungry because the fridge was empty is in a place where they're ready to

On any given day, between 30-50 per cent of the student body grabs something from the breakfast line, she says, so there's no stigma for doing so, no matter what the reason.

Eberling-Penner sends thanks out to Access CU for its generosity. "It's an awesome opportunity to have such a large grant that will support a project that is of substance and meaning," she says. "We're a small school. We're not one of those schools that has a huge budget that can just arbitrarily put a bunch of money into kitchen appliances, so this is a big deal for us."

Other schools benefiting from this funding include those in Blumenort, Dominion City, Elie, Eriksdale, Oakbank, Selkirk, and Winnipeg.

"We're thrilled to collaborate with local schools and contribute to their nutritional programming," said Curt Letkeman, Access CU board chair. "Supporting the health and well-being of students is a meaningful investment in their potential and our shared future."

Applications for the 2026 Focused Funding Grant will be available early next year. Access CU notes that the grant will have a new focus annually to target a variety of community needs.

# **Pembina Parish supports TAWG**



The United Church of Canada celebrated 100 years this June, and the Pembina Parish held a special fundraising campaign to mark the anniversary. The outreach campaign was run through May and June with the aim of supporting a local charity, and the Truth and Action Working Group was chosen as the beneficiary. As a result of the fundraising efforts, Pembina Parish representatives presented \$4,350 to Truth and Action Working Group representatives a few weeks ago. Above: TAWG representatives Diane Guilford, Carol Brown, Albert Meekis, and Dianne Hildebrand with parish reps Earl Gardiner, Susan Ching, Sue Nelson, Marlene Holewka, and Leslie Bezte.

# arts&culture

# The Art of Felt on now at Pembina Hills Gallery

By Lorne Stelmach

The exhibit on this month at the Pembina Hills Gallery aims to put the spotlight on a form of fibre art and the use of wool as an artistic medium.

The three artists involved in the joint exhibit want to connect viewers with this humble ancient fibre and show its versatility in the artist's hands using a number of techniques that give it a new voice—one that has the power to move you, tell stories, make you laugh, and inspire you.

"I remember seeing felting on a wall, and I thought I love that," said Fenella Temmerman, who had been working with silk for about 10 years before diving into felt, recalling when she spent time in Australia and discovered nuno felting, which involves a mix of silk and sheep fibre.

"You can see how the fleece and the silk play together and produce some amazing results," she said. "The fleece contracts, but it take the silk with it, and so you get an amazing texture.

"Silk painting is flat, and felting offers more three dimensional possibilities, and it also offers a lot more texture."

Debra Shnider recalled a trip to Salt Spring Island where she found a felter. Back home in Winnipeg she sought out a felting scarf course.

"It just evolved from there. I went and learned more," she said.

"It has become more popular in Canada, and COVID did a wonderful thing, one good thing, and put everything on the internet, so suddenly you could be in contact with Hungarian filters ... women in Eastern Europe," Shnider said. "In Canada, we have some incredible felt artists as well, and the opportunity for learning just became easier, and it just took off."

The Art of Felt features work by Tem-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Fenella Temmerman and Debra Shnider at the opening reception for their show, The Art of Felt, at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden. Joining them in the show is fellow felter Rosemary Peloquin, whose work is shown at right.

merman, Shnider, and Rosemarie Péloquin, and it is on at the Morden gallery until Nov. 17.

They all obviously share a passion for working with wool, and Péloquin especially has earned acclaim for her work, including having done felt busts of the then Prince Charles and Queen Elizabeth.

Temmerman recalled her passion for the medium having really started when she attended the annual Manitoba Fibre Festival.

"It all started off at Fiber Fest in Winnipeg, and the three of us have put on a display and demonstration for probably about five years now ... together, we've developed some skills and had some fun with it and the cre-

ativity of it."

"Felting was under represented in the fiber arts," noted Shnider. "With Fenella, we decided there must be other filters out there, so this was a way of raising interest and letting people know what

felting was all about, and it was also to beat the bushes for other filters. They're out there; we just need to find them, and we need to connect."

Both noted how their work in felt is very different from other mediums.

"It's using mostly sheep's wool, alpaca sometimes, but it's mainly sheep, and there's more sheep farming in Manitoba now. It's growing," said Temmerman.

"The sheep are very generous. They give their meat ... their fleece," she said, going on to note how the wool will shrink. "They're tiny, tiny fibres, and they shrink, and we use that to our advantage, and you can make it into many many different things."

"Felting, started about 10,000 years ago, and felting was formalized more in the bronze age," said Shnider. "That long ago, people were making garments and even housing out of wool.

"So fast forward, the sheep industry became popular for clothing, and it became popular for weaving," she said, noting how a key step for them with wet felting is agitating the wool with water.

"It's really versatile, very warm fabric. It also has hypoallergenic qual-



ities because it resists bacteria," she added.

"It's more of a humane regenerating thing," said Temmerman. "Reduce, reuse, recycle ... we reuse the fleece that continually grows on the sheep without damaging the animal. And they've got a lot of good husbandry that has evolved through the years for sheep farming."

The exhibit displays a wide variety of works, and a key part for the artists was having a touch table.

"It's so people can just touch and feel the different sheep wool ... because that's what it is about, touching and feeling. It's very sensory," said Temmerman.

The show will wrap up with a Nov. 17 felting workshop. Details are available at the gallery.

"It's important for us to raise the profile of felting in fiber arts," said Shnider. "Textile arts are enjoying a resurgence and getting more recognition in the art world, and they truly are works of art ... so we would like to see felting enjoy the same resurgence

"The more people that see it, and the more people that enjoy it, it gets a higher profile."



Sharing the art of sash weaving

**By Lorne Stelmach** 

Gisele Rondeau is keeping busy with an artistic passion since her retirement from teaching.

Rondeau has been in demand for her skill and knowledge with Voyageur-style sash weaving, and she taught a workshop this past Monday at Winkler Arts and Culture.

Along the way through the fourhour workshop, she offered some of the history of sashes and the meaning behind the colours. Participants were able to pick their own colours to make their pieces their own.

"It's hands-on work, and it is repetitive ... but you can just relax," said Rondeau. "Now I want to go beyond the belts, so I've explored doing lanyards and bookmarks and other objects made with different widths.

"I'm just trying to develop the art and keep creating objects," she said. "It's challenging. It keeps the brain going, and you can learn something new, and I just hope people will want to learn it.'

Sash weaving, particularly the Métis finger-weaving tradition, is a technique used to create vibrant, patterned sashes with deep cultural significance.

This method involves interlacing strands of yarn in a specific, repetitive pattern to form a strong, water-resistant fabric that historically served practical purposes for fur traders, such as a belt or for carrying loads. Today, the Métis sash is a strong symbol of cultural identity, worn for its historical and personal meaning.

Rondeau retired from teaching in 2021 after having worked in Western School Division, first at Maple Leaf School as a Grade 4 teacher and then as the French language program

She often taught weaving with her students, and it all just took off from

"When I retired, some schools started asking me to go do workshops at their schools, and word got out ... and communities seemed to want these workshops."

It was through a conversation with Eryn Wycks that the Miami Arts Association hired her to host a session. Afterwards, they wanted to learn even more techniques. By this time, Rondeau had applied to get a profile with the Manitoba Arts Council.

"This gave me the opportunity to apply for grants to help fund community groups (Artist in Communities program) and or schools (Artist in the School program) projects," she noted. "I received the news in April that the MAC had accepted my profile, therefore I applied for a grant to work with the Miami Arts Association for the current five-session project.

"With retirement, I could focus a little more on it, and it's something I'm quite interested in," said Rondeau.

For the workshop in Winkler this week, she had a number of students for the evening session who were paired up with partners to create and



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Gisele Rondeau was at Winkler Arts and Culture Monday to teach a workshop on Voyageur-style sash weaving.

weave a pattern.

"It was their own creation with a pattern they chose and colours they chose," Rondeau explained. "They could end up with a few little projects in their hands."

Rondeau started on an inkle loom, with is a specialized loom used for weaving narrow, warp-faced bands like belts, guitar straps and decorative trims. It consists of a wooden frame with pegs for winding warp threads, and its design allows for creating strong, continuous woven strips where the warp colors are the

most prominent feature. Inkle looms are popular with beginners and experienced weavers alike due to their simplicity, portability and versatility.

"I've also started to look at other ways of weaving," she said, noting she has now moved on to finger weaving.

"I find it relaxing. You can make many different patterns and colour variations. It started because of the Festival de Voyageur and getting students to get excited about learning French ... from there, I just became very interested in weaving."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Rondeau with some students. The retired teacher has found a second career leading sash-making workshops across the region.



# Our old congas are still making music for Manitobans.

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Baker Hutterite Choir is back for a second year to entertain at the Salem Foundation's Soup, Chili, and Pie fundraiser.



# Salem Soup, Chili, and Pie fundraiser coming up Nov. 9

Winkler care home raising funds for new handivan

### By Ashleigh Viveiros

Salem Foundation's celebration of fall returns next month with an afternoon of food, fellowship, and song.

The fundraising arm of the Salem Home personal care home in Winkler holds its Soup, Chili & Pie event on Sunday, Nov. 9 at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church (252 6th St.)

The event gets underway at 3:45 p.m. with music from the Baker Hutterite Choir followed by a hearty meal in the fellowship hall.

There is no admission fee, though a free will offering will be accepted, with proceeds going toward the purchase of a new handivan for Salem.

"It's a bigger cost, and so the board has decided to start fundraising for it because we know it's going to be expensive," says Salem CEO Karin Oliveira, noting initial estimates have come in at over \$200,000.

The plan is to get a handivan slightly larger than the current one, which was purchased back in 2011.

"We would like to have one that has a few more seats to allow more residents to go on the outings," Oliveira said, explaining the van is used regularly to get residents out into the community. "They go at least once or twice a week, obviously more so in the warmer months, but they still do go out in the winter.

"The last couple of months they've gone out a few times just to watch some of the harvesting that's happening, driving around to some of the farms. They often go to the Pembina Threshermen's Museum. And sometimes a group of men go out for coffee—they go through the drive-thru and pick up coffee and then go somewhere, driving around the neighbourhoods. Over Christmas they go out to see all the lights."

In addition to more seats, the newer vehicle will also have a quieter motor—the current one roars so loud that it can be difficult for residents to hold a conversation.

## > SALEM HOME, FROM PG. 12

While the old handivan is still usable, Salem is trying to be proactive in preparing for its replacement so these outings don't have to be halted if the vehicle starts to require increasing maintenance.

"We're not necessarily in a huge hurry because our van is still operational,

but it something that has been used a lot and we want to continue that," Oliveira said. "So we need to start working on it before the current one fails."

Salem Foundation is happy to be able to host its fall fundraiser in support of this project, shared executive coordinator Susan Hildebrand.

"This is always a very much anticipated event for everyone," she said. "It's just a really fun thing to do, having people come out on a Sunday afternoon to enjoy some good music."

While fundraising is always a part of this annual gathering, it really goes far beyond that.

"It's about more than the money we raise," said Oliveira. "It's the community aspect that is so important. For us to connect with people in person, it's so valuable.

"It's also an event where some of our residents are able to attend, so it's not just for us, the leadership team, to get out there, but also for residents and their families," she added. "We want as many people as possible to come out and really enjoy the fellowship."



# A night of Wild West fun

The Morden Activity Centre held a fundraising evening Saturday with a western carnival theme. Several dignitaries-including Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert (right)—were jailed until donations were collected to bail them out. The evening also featured food, drinks, and games, including a lasso competition (above).

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE















# arts&culture

# **Southern MB Concerts begins with The Nonsuch Ensemble Sunday**

By Lorne Stelmach

A new season of the Southern Manitoba Concerts series kicks off this weekend in Winkler with an acclaimed Winnipeg group that specializes in Baroque music.

The Nonsuch Ensemble perform this Sunday at the Evangelical Mennonite Missions Church.

"Probably the most distinguishing thing about our group is that we play period instruments," said flutist Nancy Hennen, who performs along with soprano Katy Hedalen, cellist Blair Burns, and harpsichordist Carol Piller.

"The harpsichord obviously is divined from the 1700s ... she has two, and one is from earlier than the other," Hennen noted. "This is probably one from the 1600s that she will be playing

"The cello is a baroque cello with

some modifications, so it's divined just a little bit differently from the modern one, and the bow that he's playing is quite different and responds really differently," she continued. "And the flute that I am playing is after a model of one from the early 1700s. It's all wood, and it just has one key, so the sound is quite different from a modern flute. So the whole sound of everything that we do is quite different from a modern ensemble."

The trio are all accomplished musicians who together explore a vast array of Baroque repertoire ranging from beloved favourites to obscure gems. This weekend's performance will feature music from their Georg Philipp Telemann's program, including works by Telemann as well as J.S. Bach, Bach's son C.P.E. Bach, and Antonio Caldara.

"It's a real mix of music," said Hennen, adding they will do two cantatas that are quite different as one is a sacred piece while the other is more secular.

Hennen said the recent addition of Hedalen as a singer has really expanded the possibilities of what they can perform.

"It's been really fun to explore some repertoire that we haven't been able to do before," she said. "It makes for nice concerts too because we can mix things up within the concert. We can have different combinations of us,

and that makes it all more interesting to listen to I think."

Hennen also welcomed the opportunity to come out into rural Manitoba and introduce the music to a new audience.

"And it's an audience of people who don't necessarily have much access to live concerts," she said. "And there aren't too many people in Manitoba who are doing something like this on period instruments, so that is kind of unique.

"It's great to have a chance to play beyond the perimeter ... it's nice for all of us to create some connections outside of the city."

## **DIVERSE LINEUP**

The 2025-26 Southern Manitoba Concerts series features quite a diverse lineup.

Next up will be An East Coast Christmas with The Barra MacNeils, Nov. 29 at the Access Event Centre in Morden.

The show is a musical potpourri of traditional MacNeil family favourites gleaned from Christmas ceilidhs, sacred music, and the general festive frolic that accompanies each holiday season.

Moving into the new year, the Prairie Sky String Quartet will perform Feb. 22 at the Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church.

The group is one of the most sought-after Winnipeg based ensembles, performing both classical music as well as original arrangements of popular contemporary songs.

The series then concludes with the Valley Arts Concert April 19 at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler. The lineup has yet to be announced, but it will include performers from across the region.

Series tickets can be purchased online at southernmanitobaconcerts.ca.



**SUPPLIED PHOTO** 

The Nonsuch Ensemble will be in Winkler Sunday to kickoff the 2025-2026 Southern Manitoba Concert series.



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# National School Bus Safety

**Week** October 20 to 24, 2025





# Keeping kids safe: bus safety

National School Bus Safety Week, observed from October 20 to 24, 2025, is the perfect time to remind motorists of the vital role they play in keeping children safe. Here's a quick refresher for motorists:

- Slow down. Reduce your speed in school zones and near bus stops.
- Be prepared to stop. Watch for flashing yellow lights—buses make frequent stops. Come to a complete stop at a safe distance well back from the crosswalk or intersection.
- Stay alert and focused. Distracted driving is especially dangerous where children are
- Watch for blind spots. Kids can dart out suddenly from between parked cars or buses.
- Always obey traffic signs and officers. Follow posted speed limits and directions from crossing guards.
- Never pass a stopped school bus. It's illegal and highly dangerous to pass a bus with flashing red lights and an extended stop arm.







**BACK TO SCHOOL** and back on the bus! **PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR OUR CHILDREN!** 





Ph. 204-325-0829 Admin For emergencies call 911 www.winklerpolice.ca







# Recovery of Hope adds new counsellors

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Eden Health Care Services' Recovery of Hope counselling program continues to grow as it works to meet the mental health needs of southern Manitoba.

The agency has recently expanded its counselling therapy team with the addition of Charlie Enns, who comes to the role as a Master of Psychotherapy and Spirituality candidate and with particular interests men's mental health, addiction, and grief and loss support.

Enns' hiring comes just a few months after the program welcomed counsellor Gaylene Dueck to the team, shared program director Kim Thiessen.

"We're always looking to grow," she said, noting they have nearly two dozen counsellors operating from Recovery of Hope's offices in Winkler, Steinbach, and Winnipeg.

"Expanding our team isn't just about adding appointments," Thiessen said. "It's about expanding fit and choice so people can find the right counsellor and the right approach for their needs."

And while in-person counselling sessions are of course offered at all three of those sites, the program also provides its virtual services province-wide to ensure people have access to counselling even if they live in remote rural areas or have other challenges that make getting out to a session difficult. As long as you have stable internet service, you can sign up to connect with a counsellor.

"We've had counsellors do counselling with people that are living internationally, and certainly across Canada. But our focus obviously is in Manitoba," Thiessen said. "All of our counselors offer virtual counseling as well as in-person.

It's an option that is especially appealing to the younger generation, Thiessen observed, though people of all ages certainly got used to virtual meetings during the pandemic.

"We've had quite often folks calling us from smaller centres that just don't have access to counselling services or the counselling services in their communities are really busy, so they reach out to us and we can set them up with counsellors in Winnipeg, Steinbach, wherever we have a counsellor that is available and taking on new clients."

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the program logged just over 6,000 counselling sessions.

"The need is not slowing down," Thiessen said. "When I started in this role we were averaging about 4,400 to 5,000 a year, so in the last three years it's really shot up."

Recovery of Hope's base fee is \$125 per session, but they also offer a sliding fee scale based on annual household income to ensure financial hardship isn't a barrier to receiving care. That scale system is subsidized by the donations that come from such community events as Eden's annual Tractor Trek or Head for the Hills.

"We're a non-profit, so we do a lot of fundraising just to be able to cover the difference between what our sliding



fee scale is and what our actual costs are," Thiessen said. "That's kind of the yearly struggle, making sure that we've got enough money in that pot so that people can continue to access counselling when they need it."

The addition of new counsellors means shorter wait times across the Recovery of Hope network (the average wait is two or three weeks) but it also provides access to a greater range of professionals with differing specialities.

"All of them are Masters-trained counsellors—that's kind of the bare minimum that we require—but they all come with various different training," Thiessen said, noting some focus on working with children, others on couples counselling, and still others on topics like abuse, trauma, or addictions. "Everybody offers something just a little bit unique."

Thiessen noted their counsellors approach their work from a patient-led perspective. While Eden is a faith-based organization, all its counsellors are accredited and follow standard practices for care.

"There is no discrimination in terms of whether someone is religious or not religious or what background they come from," she stressed. "If a client does come in and want that kind of spiritual support, faith-based support, our counsellors can provide that and are happy to do so. But really, it's client-driven and whatever the client is most comfortable with is the direction that the counsellors will go."

Thiessen hopes people won't let the stigma that often surrounds mental health challenges stop them from reaching out for help.

"There isn't one person in this world that isn't impacted by mental health," she said. "We all are on our own journey somewhere. And some of us are struggling at different times than others. We all need support sometimes."

## **GREATER COMFORT, PRIVACY**

On a tour of the Winkler location earlier this month, Eden CEO Brad Unger shared some of the upgrades the site has made of late.

"We've renovated quite extensively in the last year or so, because we didn't even have a dedicated door," he shared of the space, which is located in the ALG Professional Centre on Main St. "We really tried to take some steps for greater confidentiality and making it a better space, because it was less ideal than before."

The Winkler office now features a waiting room with frosted glass so people passing by can't see who's inside, as well several private counselling rooms with comfy couches and chairs.

The Recovery of Hope program is a big part of the work of Eden, which also runs the regional psychiatric hospital along with supportive housing and employment programs.

"Recovery of Hope offers a really essential and critical service in the mental health system," Unger said. "Counselling therapy is really a backbone service."

It's one that allows the agency to reach the greatest number of people needing care.

"At a time when mental health services are sometimes hard to access, we're proud that we have a service that is so accessible," Unger said. "We work really hard to make it affordable and to have our wait lists at manageable levels so that we can be there and meet people with the service where they're at, when they need it."

You can learn more about Recovery of Hope's services online at edenhealthcare.ca/roh or call 1-866-493-6202



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

One of the welcoming counselling spaces at the Recovery of Hope offices, located in the ALG Professional Centre in downtown Winkler.

# **Local wins award for** graphic design work

By Lorne Stelmach

A local graphic designer has received international recognition for recent work done for a homegrown company.

Brooke Nelson was honoured with an Association of Registered Graphic Designers (RGD) branding award in packaging. The RGD awards celebrate the best in branding and identity design from around the world, and Nelson's work for Blumstein Brewing, founded by Milt Olfert and Mark von Riesen, was honoured at a ceremony in Toronto Sept. 30.

The Darlingford resident is also a finalist in the packaging design category at the Signature Awards, a Manitoba competition celebrating excellence in design and advertising. Winners will be announced next month.

With the debut of craft brewery Blumstein Brewing Co. and its cheeky tagline "Mennonite beer never tasted so good," Nelson was happy to play a

role in helping shape the look and feel of the brand.

"It feels great ... it was really special to have won this award," she said. "This award specifically is from a graphic design association, so I knew the judges would be other graphic designers ... it was really validating for me to be recognized by my peers.

"This type of project is a dream for a graphic designer," Nelson added. "It offered so much creative freedom, great people to collaborate with and a brand that's both playful and connected to local business and commu-

Nelson graduated with honours in graphic design from Red River Polytech in Winnipeg in 2008. Now having worked as a graphic designer with over 18 years of experience, she has had the joy of collaborating with inspiring clients from close to home to all the way in Hawaii.

Her career has included leadership and design roles with Fusion Com-



**SUPPLIED PHOTOS** 

Brooke Nelson was honoured with a branding award in packaging for her work with Blumstein Brewing Co. Left: The craft brewery's cans.

munications Group in Winnipeg, Pure Anada Cosmetics in Morden, and CrossFit Morden.

"I've always had graphic design on my plate," said Nelson, who also does personal training and teaches yoga on the side.

"I really like it as a creative outlet. I really love it. It's just something I've always been able to do wherever I go," she said of design work. "The different people and clients I get to work with are always very interesting."

She enjoys the process because it always requires learning a little about the client and what they do and getting a feel for how they want to brand themselves.

"So it's kind of fun because you're always getting to know about different industries ... as a freelance designer. If you're an in-house graphic designer then it's a little different," she noted.

"Most every project involves at least

communication about the brand," she continued. "And if they're just starting out, it's cool because you're helping them develop their brand."

Nelson added working with Blumstein was enjoyable because they "have certain values and ideas in mind of what their brewery would be and that had a lot to do with having fun and community and storytelling and then brewing beer from local ingredients ... that all starts to define the brand."

Ideas are generated, and a variety of things need to be considered—everything from colours to styles and illustrations and font styles.

She liked the idea of Blumstein using German names for their beers while also including English descriptors.

"It feels really cool now to see the cans on the shelves."

You can see other examples of Nelson's work online at brookenelsonde-



# one conversation and back and forth Nominations open for Excellence in Education Awards

The Manitoba government is celebrating World Teachers' Day by opening nominations for the 2025-26 Excellence in Education Awards, which recognize outstanding teachers and school leaders across the province.

"Educators play a vital role in shaping the future of our children and our communities," said Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Tracy Schmidt. "These awards honour the dedication, creativity and leadership of teachers and school leaders who go above and beyond to help students succeed."

The awards celebrate exceptional contributions within Manitoba's education system and highlight the province's commitment to recognizing excellence in teaching and leadership. Nominations close Dec. 4, and recipients will be honoured at a ceremony in spring 2026.

Award categories include:

Teaching Excellence Award Outstanding New Teacher Award Outstanding Team Collaboration

Outstanding School Leader Award Premier's Award for Excellence in Education

The premier's award is chosen from nominees across the other four categories and honours those whose work has made a remarkable and far-reaching impact on students and their school communities.

Eligible nominees must hold a valid, permanent Manitoba teaching certificate and work directly with kindergarten to Grade 12 students. School leaders must be principals or vice-principals. Nominations can be submitted by parents, guardians, students, school trustees, teachers, or administrators.

World Teachers' Day, established by UNESCO and Education International, has been celebrated globally on Oct. 5 since 1994.

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

# Newspaper carriers go the extra mile during National Newspaper Week

Despite Canada Post strike, local team keeps nearly 95% of papers on schedule

As National Newspaper Week was celebrated across Canada from Oct. 6–12, local newspaper carriers of the Selkirk Record, Winkler Morden Voice, Altona Rhineland Voice, Carman Dufferin Standard, Stonewall Teulon Tribune and the Express Weekly News, are proving just how vital they are to keeping communities informed — especially during challenging times.

Amid the recent Canada Post strike, carriers across southern Manitoba and the Interlake have gone above and beyond to make sure readers continue to receive their weekly news. Despite delivery delays across the country, nearly 95 per cent of papers from our publications have still reached homes and businesses on schedule.

"This has been an incredible team effort," said newspaper publisher Lana Meier. "From office staff to volunteer drivers and local carriers, everyone has stepped up to make sure our readers stay informed."

Carriers have been going door to door in Arborg, Teulon, Stonewall, Warren, Woodlands, St. Andrews, St. Mountain, Selkirk, Winkler and Morden, working early mornings and late nights to keep deliveries on track.

"They're working day and night to get the papers out," Meier said. "It's a reminder that community news really depends on people — neighbours helping neighbours — to keep information flowing."

Carrier Appreciation Day, recognized on Saturday, Oct. 11, coincided with National Newspaper Week, a time to celebrate the essential role of trusted journalism in protecting the truth. This year's campaign by News Media Canada highlighted the importance of supporting local newspapers that bring reliable, fact-checked information to every corner of the country.

"We are very fortunate to have the trust and advertising support from our local businesses to make sure that the community newspaper continues," Meier added. "It is their advertising and flyers that bring the news to our readers week in and week out. Be sure to shop local."

National Newspaper Week — and every week — is a celebration of the people and partnerships that make community journalism possible.

At the heart of that effort is the mission that drives every edition: Connecting people through stories to make stronger communities.













SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Amid the Canada Post strike, Warren Collegiate students helped bag and deliver the Stonewall Teulon Tribune, while friends and family have been pitching in before and after school to bag, roll and deliver newspapers - including the Selkirk Record, Winkler Morden Voice, Altona Rhineland Voice, Carman Dufferin Standard and the Express Weekly News — door to door.





# sports&recreation



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler's Niklas Gudmundson carries the puck around behind Dauphin netminder Bryson Yaschyshyn in Sunday's 5-1 Flyers victory.

# Flyers down Kings

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers struggled a bit last week but kicked off this week with a win.

On Tuesday, Oct. 14, they fell 3-2 to the visiting Selkirk Steelers.

The close battle saw Winkler outshoot Selkirk 33-28 and up 2-1 late in the third

period, but the visitors fired home the tying goal with just minutes left on the clock and then got the game winner with one second to spare.

Scoring for Winkler early in the first was Connor Rieger. Tanner George then pulled the Flyers into the lead in the third period's 16th minute. In net, Leif Ekblad made 25 saves for the Flyers.

Things weren't as close Friday night in Virden against the Oil Cap-

Continued on page 20

# Female Hawks face tough competition down south

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were put to the test this past weekend at a tournament in Minneapolis where they went up against some high-level hockey teams.

The Hawks first fell 5-0 Friday afternoon to the NH Mountain Cats Academy 19U team. Shots on goal were 23 apiece, but Pembina Valley trailed 1-0 and 3-0 at the intermissions. Hannah Bannister took the loss in goal.

Friday evening then saw the team lose 5-1 to the Carolina Jr. Hurricanes 19U team. Sophia Cox scored the lone goal for Pembina Valley, which trailed 1-0 and 2-0 after periods one and two. Madison Froese was in net this match.

Saturday then started better for the Hawks as they battled to a 3-3 draw with the Dallas Stars Elite Girls 19U team. Chase Braun and Claire Boyd

scored a pair of goals within the final two minutes to earn the tie. The other Hawks' goal came from Delaney Darby. Pembina Valley outshot Dallas 22-10. Bannister made seven saves in net.

The weekend concluded later Saturday with the Hawks dropping a 7-1 decision to the Anaheim Lady Ducks 19U team. Casey O'Brien opened the scoring for the Hawks in the first period, but the rest of the way was dominated by Anaheim, which outshot the Hawks 38-23. Froese and Bannister split net-minding duties this game.

Pembina Valley returns to league play this weekend starting with hosting Central Plains Friday then Eastman later Saturday afternoon.

At press time, the Hawks were sitting in seventh place at 2-3-0-0 for four points, just behind Yellowhead at five points and Central Plains with

# Male Hawks fall to Thrashers

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks lost their lone game of the week last Friday in falling 6-3 to the Winnipeg Thrashers.

It leaves the Hawks in the middle of the pack in the standings at 4-3-0-1 for nine points, which has them even with the Winnipeg Bruins, one

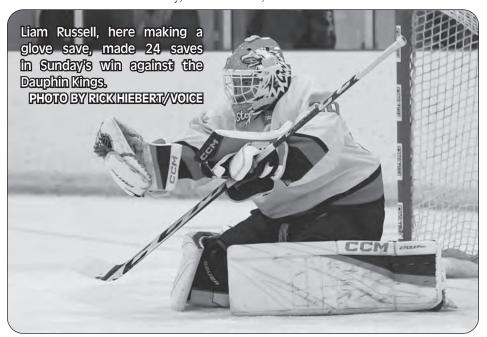
up on Central Plains and one behind Yellowhead, but the standings remain tight with just one point separating each team from first to ninth place.

The Thrashers took period leads of 2-1 and 4-1 on their way to the win while outshooting the Hawks 44-29, so Koen Bleznuk was busy in goal for Pembina Valley in making 38 saves.

Scoring for the Hawks were Car-

son Hiebert—who is already up to 10 goals in the early going of the season—along with Caden McMahon and Ragnar Gillis.

This week, the Hawks hosts the unbeaten and first-place Winnipeg Wild Wednesday night. Then the weekend has them welcoming Kenora Saturday and Southwest on Sunday.



## > FLYERS, FROM PG. 19

The two teams were an even match when it came to shots on goal—37 each—but it was Virden who managed to find the mark six times, while Winkler's offensive lines scored just twice (both coming from Kam Thomas in the second period). Ekblad took the loss in net, making 31 saves.

The pendulum swung back the Orange and Black's way Sunday night at home against the Dauphin Kings.

Niklas Gudmundson got Winkler on the board midway through the first period. After the Kings tied it up five minutes into the second, it was the Flyers who did all the rest of the scoring, with Jacob Michelson, George, and Owen Wallace making it 4-1 heading into the final 20 minutes.

Gudmundson then got his second of the night to cement the win 5-1.

Liam Russell stopped 24 shots in net as the Flyers outshot the Kings 34-25.

The Flyers are 3-7-1 for the season thus far, good for seven points and sixth place in the MJHL East Division, ahead of only the Winnipeg Monarchs, who have one win and 14 losses on their record.

Leading the division right now are the Steinbach Pistons (10-0-1), the Selkirk Steelers (10-1-1), and the Niverville Nighthawks (9-1).

This week Winkler hosted Neepawa Tuesday (results were not available at press time) and then heads north to play in Swan Valley Friday and Saturday and in Dauphin on Sunday.

# Twisters show late spark but fall short against Jets

By Annaliese Meier

The Pembina Valley Twisters battled hard on home ice Friday night but couldn't overcome a dominant second period by the Stonewall Jets, falling 6–3 in Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League action at the Morris MultiPlex.

After a promising start, the Twisters matched Stonewall goal-for-goal in the opening frame, with Vlad Stepic scoring his first of the season to tie the game 1–1. But the second period proved costly as the Jets struck four times to take control.

Despite the deficit, Pembina Valley refused to fold. Carter Unger found

the back of the net midway through the third, and Stepic added his second late in the game to close the gap to 6–3. Forwards Ryan Thiessen and Lucas Thomas each picked up assists, while goaltender Rowan Cherkas faced a heavy workload, turning aside 36 of 42 shots.

The Twisters, now 0–5–0 to start the season, showed signs of offensive life with three goals and a stronger third period.

Stonewall's Alex Kaczorowski led all scorers with two goals, while Karson King, Gavin Holod, Rylan Slatcher and Adam Newcombe added singles for the Jets (3–2–0).

The Twisters will look to regroup be-

fore hitting the road to face Stonewall again on Nov. 13, when they aim to turn their hard work into results.

Pembina Valley returned to the ice Sunday but ran into an even hotter St. James offence, dropping a 10–2 decision to the Jr. Canucks. St. James forward Nicholas Cullen exploded for four goals and an assist, including two on the power play, while Jace Anderson and Brady Thorsteinson also scored. Jacob Phillips added four assists for the Canucks, who improved to 2–3–1.

Pembina Valley, still searching for its first win of the season, slipped to 0-6-0 and sits 10th in the MMJHL standings. The Twisters have averaged just

2.0 goals per game while allowing nearly six.

The Twisters, still in search of their first win, will look to regroup before hitting the road to face Stonewall again Nov. 13, aiming to turn their hard work into results.

The Twisters will look to regroup quickly as they prepare for two road games this week — Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m. against the Charleswood Hawks at the Eric Coy Arena, followed by a Sunday, Oct. 26 matchup at 7 p.m. versus the River East Royal Knights at Terry Sawchuk Arena.

# Bombers, Royals open SEMHL season this weekend

By Haley Cvar

The Morden Bombers will hit the road to open the 2025–26 South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League season on Friday, Oct. 24, when they face last

year's finalist, the Springfield Winterhawks, in the season's first official matchup.

The following week, the Bombers will host their home opener against Carman, one of several additional ri-

valry matchups added to this year's 18-game schedule. League play will continue through Feb. 7, with every team earning a playoff berth.

Also representing the region, the Winkler Royals will debut at home Sunday, Oct. 26, against the Winterhawks. Their fans can expect a full schedule of nine home and nine away games, including a renewed rivalry tilt with Morden later in the season.



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# Carman Fall Gun Show returns Oct. 25 for 35th year

By Annaliese Meier

The Carman Community Hall will be buzzing on Saturday, Oct. 25, as the annual Carman Fall Gun Show returns for its 35th year, bringing together vendors, collectors and outdoor enthusiasts from across the re-

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature 80 vendor tables showcasing firearms, ammunition, hunting supplies and accessories. Attendees will also find gun parts, knife-sharpening services and, for the first time this year, a vendor selling outdoor apparel. Admission is \$8 at the door, with children 12 and under admitted free.

Organizer Bruce Reid said the show has grown steadily since it began more than three decades ago.

"Over the years, the show has almost doubled its attendance," he said. "We're seeing a younger crowd now, which tells me interest in the hobby is

Several longtime vendors have taken part every year, and Reid said he has a waiting list of others eager to join the show. In addition to the displays and sales tables, visitors can take part in the annual raffle, with 100 per cent of proceeds going to charity. This year's funds will support Carman Handi-Van.

The show also offers plenty of prizes throughout the day in celebration of its 35th anniversary. Food will be served by Crazy Ladies Catering a popular draw for many attendees. "They're very well known for their schnitzel burger," Reid added.

Reid credits the dedication of friends and volunteers with helping the event thrive year after year. Show apparel, created by local business Dredger, has also become a crowd favourite.

The Carman Fall Gun Show takes place Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Carman Community



Bruce Reid, organizer of the Carman Fall Gun Show, presents a donation to Sandy Cameron on behalf of Carman Palliative Care from proceeds raised at a previous show. The annual event returns Oct. 25 to Carman Community Hall for its 35th year, featuring 80 vendor tables and fundraising in support of Carman Handi-Van.

# Farmers invited to safely dispose of old pesticides, animal meds

By Lana Meier

Manitoba producers will have an opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted farm chemicals and expired livestock medications later this month through Cleanfarms' free collection program, running Oct. 27 to 31 at 20 sites across the province.

The initiative, supported by the Canadian Animal Health Institute and crop protection industry partners, helps farmers responsibly manage hazardous materials and reduce environmental risks.

"This is one of our longest-running programs and continues to provide meaningful environmental benefits across the country," said Barry Friesen, Cleanfarms' executive director. "We're proud to offer Manitoba farmers a free drop-off and a trusted way to dispose of these materials."

Local collection sites include:

- Altona Oct. 28: GJ Chemical Co., Junction of Hwy 30 and Rd. 9 N.
- Brunkild Oct. 27: MK Agro, 3062

• St. Claude – Oct. 29: R-Way AG, 38084 PTH 2

Drop-off hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Farmers can bring obsolete agricultural pesticides with a Pest Control Product number and livestock or equine medications bearing a DIN, serial number or notification number.

Items not accepted include treated seed, sharps or needles, medicated feed, aerosol containers, and household pesticides or medications. Cleanfarms reminds producers to ensure materials are clearly labelled and securely packaged before drop-off.

More details, including a full list of Manitoba collection sites and preparation guidelines, are available at cleanfarms.ca/materials/unwanted-pesticides-animal-meds.

Cleanfarms operates across Canada, recovering and recycling agricultural plastics, packaging and products to support a more sustainable farm environment.

# Register now for Carman Curl for Cancer on Nov. 8

By E. Antonio

Dust off your brooms and slider shoes and help celebrate Carman's 32nd annual Curl for Cancer funspiel and banquet on Nov. 8.

Taking place at the Carman Golf and Curling Club, Curl for Cancer has raised more than \$1 million over the past three decades for CancerCare Manitoba, South Central Cancer Resource and Carman Palliative Care. This year, organizers hope to add another \$60,000 to that total.

"Everyone has been touched by cancer in some way, whether it's personally or through a family member or friend — no one is immune to its impacts," said chair Brady McGillivary. "Curl for Cancer has been a staple community event for a very long time, and we are proud to be able to

continue to offer it."

The Carman Curl for Cancer event was started by a local family who wanted to raise funds for their daughter's cancer treatment. Since then, it has made a lasting impression on the lives of many.

Registration is now open for the curling funspiel. Up to 20 teams of four are invited to take part in the family-friendly, all-skill-level event. Each team will play three games throughout the day for a registration fee of \$200 per team.

Throughout the day, curlers can enjoy trivia in the clubhouse, browse the rainbow auction, and start their bidding online for one of the many exciting items up for grabs.

As in previous years, the auction will be hosted in two parts: most items will be available online, while a select few will be exclusive to the banquet. McGillivary said auction items will be posted by the end of October, with plenty to look forward to. Past events have featured high-value prizes such as a private in-home catered dinner, excavation services and free propane. Updates will be shared on Curl for Cancer's Facebook and Instagram pages once available.

Games will begin between 8 and 9 a.m. and wrap up by 3 p.m., ahead of the evening banquet.

"The more, the merrier," McGillivary said. "This is an event that brings the community together, and the more people we can squeeze in, the more money we can raise."

Doors open at 5 p.m. for the banquet, giving guests time to mingle,

enjoy cocktail hour and take part in the rainbow auction. Dinner will be served around 6 p.m., followed by speeches from an honorary guest, live music and a live auction.

Banquet tickets cost \$100 per person for those not curling. Teams registered for the funspiel can attend the banquet for \$25 less, or \$500 total for a day of curling and four banquet tick-

Team spots and banquet tickets are going fast, and McGillivary encourages everyone to contact carmancurlforcancer@gmail.com or 204-745-0252 to secure their place at this year's Curl for Cancer celebration.

"It's a great way to spend time with friends and raise money for a good cause," he added.

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Completed Tender and a \$10,000.00 deposit of the Tender Price are invited to be received up to 12:00 PM (noon) on November 13th, 2025 (the "deadline") on the property described below, which Tenders and Deposits shall be received at:

#### **PKF Lawvers**

326 Stephen St, Morden, Manitoba R6M 1T5
Attn: Stéphane Warnock
Ph: 204-822-4463

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CT #3051710/4

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(the "Land")

## Parcels are being tendered together.

## **Conditions of Tender:**

- 1. Financing must be pre-approved.
- 2. Tender to be in the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. To obtain tender form or more info, contact Tammy Bisschop at tbisschop@pkflawyers or call 204-822-4463.
- 3. Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00. Deposits of tenders not accepted will be returned to the tenderers.
- 4. Highest Tender or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.
- 5. The Possession date and the due date of the balance of Tender Price shall be December 15th, 2025.
- 6. The maker of any Tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the Land, independent of the representations made by the vendor or the solicitor and agent of the vendor. The Land will be sold "as is" and the bidder is solely responsible to determine the value and condition of the Land, Land quality, Land use, environmental condition and any other information pertaining to the Land.
- 7. Submit Tender and certified cheque in a sealed envelope marked "Janzen Estate".

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### PUBLIC NOTICE



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Amend the 2025 Financial Plan Monday, November 10, 2025 5:45 pm Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre

In accordance with subsection 162(3) of The Municipal Act, the Council will present an Amendment to the 2025 Financial Plan for the Town of Altona at 5:45 pm on Monday, November 10, 2025 in the Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre. The Amendment is required to authorize a transfer of up to \$180,000 from the Millennium Exhibition Centre Building Reserve Fund for the emergency replacement of the Ice Plant Chiller and related costs. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the Tender to complete the work are available on our website at www.altona.ca or upon request at the Town of Altona Administration Office, 111 Centre Avenue during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may be directed by letter or email to our Manager of Finance or through our email address at info@altona.ca.

Terry Fehr, CMMA Manager of Finance Town of Altona terry.fehr@altona.ca Box 1630 Altona MB ROG 0B0 October 17, 2025

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## News Tips? Story Ideas? call the Voice

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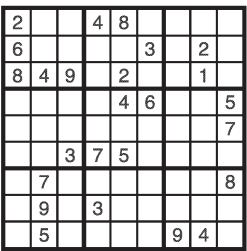
**Notice of Morden-Winkler PC Association Board Selection Meeting AGM** 

> Date: Tuesday. **November 18th**

> > **Time: 6:30pm** Location:

**RM of Stanley Office** (RM of Stanley 1-23111 PTH 14)

# take abro

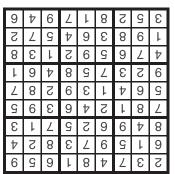


#### Fun By The Numbers

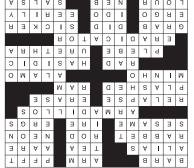
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put vour sudoku savvy to the test!

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



Sudoku Answer

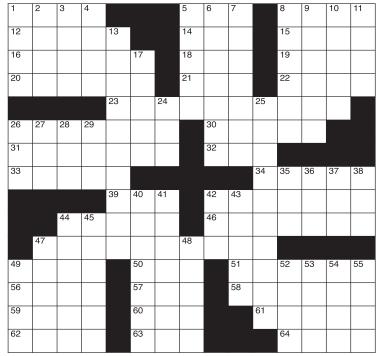


Crossword Answer

# ROSSWOR

## **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Remark
- 5. Upper body part
- 8. Expression of dismissiveness
- 12. Alternate name
- 14. Popular beverage
- 15. Swiss river
- 16. Step-shaped recess
- 18. Rocker Stewart
- 19. Bright shade of color
- 20. Popular "street"
- 21. Wrath
- 22. Heat units
- 23. Nocturnal omnivorous mammals
- 26. Fall back into
- 30. Remove from the record
- 31. Sound a splash made
- 32. Popular Dodge pickup model
- 33. Jamaican river
- 34. Notable event in Texas history
- 39. Cool!
- 42. Subset of Judaism
- 44. Newly entered cadet
- 46. Duct in urinary system
- 47. Exterminator
- 49. Snatch quickly
- 50. Have already done
- 51. Less healthy
- 56. Therefore
- 57. What couples say on the altar
- 58. Mysteriously
- 59. Look angry or sullen
- 60. Bird's beak
- 61. Taco ingredient
- 62. Square measures
- 63. Google certification (abbr.)
- 64. Singer Hansard



### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Pubs
- 2. Wings
- 3. Popular BBQ dish
- 4. Small sponge cake
- 5. Open-roofed entrance halls
- 6. Organize anew
- 7. Type of wine
- 8. Forums
- 9. North Atlantic islands (alt. sp.)
- 10. Pond dwellers
- 11. Large integers
- 13. Signaled
- 17. Brief
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Tibetan monasteries
- 26. Revolutions per minute
- 27. NY Giants great Manning

- 28. Local area network 29. Residue from burning
- 35. Illuminated
- 36. Vasopressin
- 37. Notable space station
- 38. Wood sorrel
- 40. Adhering to laws
- 41. Chose
- 42. Hovel
- 43. Stood up
- 44. European city
- 45. Works ceaselessly
- 47. Mistake
- 48. Sun-dried brick
- 49. Sicilian city
- 52. A steep rugged rock or cliff
- 53. Murder
- 54. Other
- 55. "Deadpool" actor Revnolds







**CHEVROLET** BUICK

## HONDA



- SYNC 3 W/ NAVIGATION

  APPLE CARPLAY/ANDROID AUTO

  ADAPTIVE CRUISE W/ LANE KEEP ASSIST
- 115,000 KM

PLUS PST/GST STK# 25U124



- 2.01 FC0B00ST
- HEATED LEATHER & STEERING WHEEL
- SYNC 4 W/ NAVIGATION
- ADAPTIVE CRUISE W/ LANE CENTERING











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**HENRY BLATZ** 

**KURT MILLER** 



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